

Spent \$900 Monday 1962 April 23

Mrs. Griggs: This note is for "Ham Bone." My husband is also a "ham" operator. He hasn't spent thousands of dollars on his hobby because he hasn't had that much, but he has spent close to \$900. And while he was talking on his radio set I was trying to keep house with no hot water and no refrigerator.

I had two one-burner hot plates on which I heated water for the washing machine. I wore a pair of holey shoes for four months, so I could save some money. And then he goes out and buys another antenna for \$25! This was a year ago. Since then we have had a better income and I now have a stove, refrigerator, sewing machine and a few things to make my life pleasanter and easier.

I agree that some of our male population could learn to love someone else besides themselves, but since a lot of males are like that, then we "ham widows" and other "widows" have to make the best of it. One way is to have hobbies of our own. For instance, I've taken up several hobbies. They are inexpensive but expensive hobbies for both aren't permissible in a family like ours. In one of my hobbies I've made badly needed dresses for our daughter at less than one dollar each and new curtains for a dollar each. I've taken up carpentry and have made small items like bookends and a small vanity and bench for the children's room.

I've also drawn some house plans, and an "artist's" view of a prospective church front for a pastor friend of ours. I wish I could help "Ham Bone" further. Maybe a "Ham Widows" club is the answer. At least we could cry over each others blues instead of our own, or laugh as the occasion might be.

HAM WIDOW.

Ham Widow: It's possible your husband was better able to earn more money this last year, because of the relaxation and know-how gained from his hobby.

I. Q. G.

Single Operator

Mrs. Griggs: I am 20 years old, unmarried, with an amateur radio operator's license. I've spent about \$500 in equipment for home and car. It in-

cludes antennas, transmitter and receiver, plus power supplies. I've seen sets in Milwaukee costing only a few dollars and some costing thousands. I think how much time and money are spent on the hobby is an individual situation, but do think if a fellow has a family he should think of them first in money matters and also should consider their wants so far as recreation is concerned.

I don't think the family should be sacrificed. Maybe the wife would like to bowl, for instance and have her husband go with her. Being single I don't have the responsibility of a family man and can do things hobbywise a little more freely, but I keep these things in mind.

At the same time I think it is wrong for a wife or anyone else to discourage anyone who wishes to be a ham. Radio is a fine hobby and can lead to a job. The answer is not to go to extremes. Amateur radio wasn't just designed for a disabled person, though it is sedentary. It was designed for those who are interested in radio and communication. It is a woman's hobby as well as a man's. There are many women hams. I know one family in which the parents, daughter and son are licensed hams. Even my mother and my girl friend are interested in the hobby and want to work for their licenses. People can work at it and still have time for necessary sunshine and fresh air. K9YPO.

K9YPO: It is wonderful to have your mother and girl friend share your enthusiasm. With this and your good sense it will never be a problem in your life.

I. Q. G.